

Remarks

Claims 1-10 were pending in the above-identified application. With this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 were amended and new claims 11 and 12 were added. Applicant maintains that no new matter has been added with this amendment. Accordingly, claims 1-12 are at issue in the above-identified application.

The Examiner objected to the substitute abstract included with Applicant's response filed on April 29, 2002 as not being verbatim the proposed amended abstract appearing on page 2 of the same response. Applicant has therefore included above a clean copy of the verbatim proposed amended abstract that is to be substituted for the abstract as originally filed. Accordingly, Applicant requests that this objection be removed.

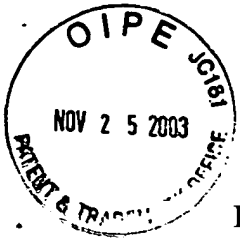
The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 as being purportedly anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by Zin U.S. Patent No. 3,196,832 or Hansen U.S. Patent No. 3,176,653. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being purportedly obvious over Zin or Hansen, as applied to Claims 1 and 2, and further in view of Caruthers. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being purportedly obvious over Zin or Hansen as applied to Claims 1 and 2, and further in view of Denton. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being purportedly obvious over Zin or Hansen in view of Denton, as applied to Claims 6 and 7, and further in view of Caruthers.

As was discussed in Applicant's April 29, 2002 response, neither Zin nor Hansen teaches a developing apparatus where the developer is retained within the space between the elongated opening and the image-bearing surface. In the present office action, the Examiner stated that the term "substantially" in claims 1 and 6 did not limit the boundaries to which the developing apparatus may be present between the elongated opening and the image bearing member. In order to obviate the Examiner's concerns, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 to delete the

term "substantially." Accordingly, claim 1 now requires an air duct containing air flow therein having a predetermined air pressure "to hold a liquid developer within a space between the elongated opening and the image-bearing." Since the prior art does not disclose a developing apparatus that has air ducts for holding a liquid developer between the elongated opening, and the image-bearing surface, Applicant submits that amended claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 6 has also been amended to require a plurality of air ducts, each containing air flow therein having a predetermined air pressure, for causing the liquid developer to be retained between a respective elongated opening and the image-bearing surface. Accordingly, Claim 6 is now allowable for the same reasons as Claim 1.

The Examiner also objected to Claims 3, 5, 8, and 10 as being dependent on a rejected claim but stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has added new independent Claim 11 that includes the limitations of Claim 1 and Claim 3, along with the limitation of any intervening claims. Applicant has also added independent Claim 12 that includes the limitations of Claim 1 and Claim 5, along with the limitation of any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 11 and 12 are in condition for allowance.



CONCLUSION


For the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claims 1, 6, 11, and 12 as well as dependent Claims 2-5, and 7-10 are allowable over the prior art, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Any questions should be directed to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP

November 21, 2003

By: 
Enrique Perez
Reg. No. 43,853

SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL
P.O. Box #061080
Wacker Drive Station
Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-6404
(312) 876-8000